Agents Meeting POINT January 20, 1972 San Francisco

Present:

Lois Brand
Stewart Brand
Bill English
Roberta English
Bob Flegal
Janet Flegal
Bill Goetz
Pauline Goetz
Kay Haverhill
Huey Johnson
Susan Johnson
Judy Johnston
Sharon Daniels
Barbara Klein
Larry Klein
Joan McIntyre
Ani Mander
Jerry Mander
Alice Tepper Marlin
John Marlin
Fred Moore
Jim Morgan
Mike Phillips
Dick Raymond
Diana Shugart
Eleanor Watkins

Everyone was introduced, and Stewart asked all the agents to say a little something about themselves:

Jerry: Wants to be a "free lance catalyst", doesn't know the specific forms his ideas will take, and wants to gain some new direction for himself during this year.

Janet: Wants to work on the Stanford Day Care Center, and see it succeed and provide a model so that more and more can succeed.

Bill E.: Expertise is in computer technology, has no specific agents plans, but has some feeling toward de-urbanization.

Stewart: Will agent for POINT, and whatever else comes up. Up so far has been helping to raise money for Traditional American Indians. Will be available to POINT and to the agents.

Bill A.G.: Has been an organizer for blacks and chicanos, and has two specific plans in mind. First he wants to spend a month or so gathering up some of Benny Bufano's history, before it gets lost. Then he wants to do some kind of short study in the Bay Area on services for penniless travelers, (services, not penniless travelers) of which there are few if any. Then he will take his family across the country, expecting to be stranded, moneyless, and foodless numerous times, and see what will happen. Due to the nature of this project, DON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT HE'S UP TO.

Joan: Has been working with Friends of the Earth, and now wants to work toward establishing a ten year moratorium on whaling, and the killing of whales. She'll travel for about six months, then do follow-up on the project. She's already been able to raise more money out of the calm and presence of having the Agent money, and is interested in using the money to get more.

Mike: Comes from being a banker, and the treasurer of Glide. He wants to find unique people, and do/stage/perpetrate symbolic acts which will affect people's thinking. One example is working to help senior citizens establish broader networks by giving them $100 worth of free telephone calls every month, for instance.

Jim: Is from a farm in Idaho, and began his current career when he fell in love with an animal, the Big Horn Sheep. He's spent the last year getting himself together to save the land in Idaho, and plans a campaign to save the wilderness and the wildlife there.

Huey: Has been at Nature Conservancy for 8 years, and he wants to establish a National Land Policy toward the survival of future generations, having begun to realize that we may be "tickling the appendix rather than dealing with the corpse of the beast". He wants to realize the activist chair concept, the land speculation concept, and make a pilgrimage to Africa.

Fred Moore: Has spent the past 8 years opposing compulsory institutions: ROTC, the draft, schooling, age discrimination. He's interested in how myths control the way society is run, and wants to find new values and promote them while at the same time undermining some of the old myths. Even the law could be more oriented towards sharing, giving, caring, as opposed to, say, monetary values.

Dick: Is just coming out of a six-month sabbatical of sorts, prior to which he was learning how to deal with surprises at Portola Institute. This year, he wants to provide a lab for people like Fred, and do some

interesting things in terms of de-urbanization and creating new traditions. Ignore the dinosaurs ("turd pecking"), and proliferate the sub-system.

Alice: Sees the dinosaurs as corporations. She's been working with the Council on Economic Priority, and wants to free herself from some of the daily work there, and use some of the research gathered in a more activist way. She wants to be a sort of nexus person of information and communication, and plans to go to Africa to research the role of banks there, but will probably put that off for awhile. Is available to other agents, and sees the enforced leisure as a great thing.

Stewart: Talks a little about what POINT thinks it's up to. Since the money came in in a different (non-profit) way, we started thinking about putting it back out in a different way. Although POINT is still in the process of being defined, we feel we're 1. anti-foundation in the sense of wanting to encourage tautness and elegance vs. sloppiness - wanting to do good with a minimum of effort. 2. going all out for a certain amount of specifically encouraged leisure, so that high out-putters can have time to input some. 3. We want to avoid funding projects by funding individuals (PIA, as opposed to CIA), and hope that the idea will be used by others. The basics of PIA are the money for one year's "work" , and the relationships of sponsor to agent, which are special and individual relationships, so that a number of things will get tried. Some sponsors may want monthly reports, but this should not be seen as any kind of control or monitoring. POINT will also want to say out loud what goes wrong, and will be doing some publishing.

Joan: What about publicity vs. secrecy?

Stewart: We have a feeling to be transparent, but we don't have that much

real information to disperse yet.

Joan: What about using the information of having received the money in the world? Should we keep it quite?

Lois: Tell 'em. It's not a secret.

Stewart: How do the agents feel about visibility? It needs to be based on the individual.

Some discussion on the difficulties of being flooded by requests.

Dick: Wants to be absolutely tough - anyone asking for money automatically doesn't get it.

Stewart: Don't call us, we'll call you. News, yes; appeals, no.

Alice: To what degree do we want a group affiliation? Don't like the idea of a newsletter or regular meetings. After dinner, let's all share our areas of expertise, so we can know where to go for what.

Fred: Yes, a loose kind of team.

Huey: Is POINT open as a recipient of further funds?

Stewart: So far.

Lois passes out the $15,000 checks to the agents.

Joan: "Oh shit! You people are out of your fucking minds! You don't what this is gonna DO to a human psyche!"

And so forth.

Larry: Explains the legal trip. POINT is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, and part of the price for that is that we can't do certain things. Congress,in its infinite wisdom, isn't interested in what you do do, but it doesn't want you to do certain things that will bug them, to wit: 1. help a candidate for public office. 2. lobby for legislation, which is meant in the most literal sense. You are free to try & raise public consciousness on social issues. Letters will be sent to each agent, to this effect, to cover POINT legally.

Stewart: But I don't really mean it.

Larry: Yes you DO mean it. The money is a "fellowship grant", $3600.00 tax free, the rest is taxable as income, less whatever you can call expenses.

Mike: Passes out a list of the things that can be considered as expenses, and says to document your expenses, and give your reasons.

Mike: Invites everyone to attend the sex course at Glide over the weekend.

We all go stuff outselves with good food and wine at the Down Under, an Australian restaurant featuring good ole American beef steaks.

Afterwards, as they say, Jim showed his slides of the Idaho wilderness, brilliant and wondrous, and invited everyone to visit there in April.

We got about halfway around in having everyone tell about their resourses:

Alice: Has an extra room in NY, and knowledge of the research involving corporations, and access to sources of information. Also know-how in how to get the media interested in what you're doing, and fund-raising.

Stewart: Will be publishing something. Keep your eyes open for whatever you feel deserves reproduction.

Bill G.: Skips for the moment.

Joan: Is loggy with lobster and wine - "Our new found riches have gone to our heads". Wants to use this influx of energy (the money) as a way of getting things in order, and feels that it gives the option of approaching people in a new way - not out of a great need, which could do a lot of peripheral good. Is also interested in the psychological ramifications of what's going to happen to the agents as people, and wants to keep track of that and share it with others, especially in our sense of possibility, of future.

Stewart: Yeah. The main line of our efforts was always blunted early on. The side effects were where the gravy was at.

Jim: Wants to relate more on the personal level, more than the technical/resources.

Dick: Wants Joan to tell her own skills.

Joan: Radio producer, a few films, mostly writing now, is interested in the illumination of our lives through contact with animals, and in the tie-in between the wilderness and nature "out there" and that "inside."

Fred: Wants loose contact and mutual feedback with the other agents.

Jerry: Is an expert in the media, and will be glad to help anyone out. Wants to stay in touch and be useful, and will probably be attempting single media events of a catalytic nature.

Joan: Ideas especially, should be released and used. It's a good form of energy.

Mike: Has been involved with money for a long time, and can help folks in thinking about money and the use of it.

Stewart: Are you some kind of a money shrink?

Mike: Yeah. It's worse than being neurotic, not knowing how to deal with money.

Stewart: POINT can be used as a conduit for money, too.

Alice: Be careful about using the word "conduit".

Mike & Dick: It's becoming more acceptable.

A little discussion on how much and what kind of inter-access agents want.

Lois: If you want anything distributed, send finished copy. Or, what you send is what they'll get.

Bill G.: Let's reserve this room for Jan. 20, 1973.

Stewart: Gives his gas rap.

Mike: Gives his gas.

Diana Shugart